

## Message Text

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12/11

ACTION EA-09

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P 100912Z DEC 76 CORRECTED COPY MRN

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3814

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 19235

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y MRN (19235 VICE 9235)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJECT: CHURCH-STATE DEVELOPMENTS: STATUS OF DEPORTATION/VISA  
RENEWAL CASES

REF: (A) MANILA 18970; (B) MANILA 18917; (C) MANILA 18865;  
(D) MANILA 18669

1. PRESIDENT MARCOS SUMMONED PAPAL NUNCIO AND SECRETARY  
GENERAL OF THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE TO WELL-PUBLICIZED  
MEETING AT MALACANANG PALACE DEC 8. PRESIDENT ASSURED THEM  
THAT RECENT ARRESTS OF CHURCH WORKERS (MAINLY IN MINDANAO)  
WERE NOT MOVE AGAINST CHURCH, BUT AGAINST INDIVIDUAL LAW  
VIOLATORS. HE SAID THAT CHARGES AGAINST INDIVIDUALS DETAINED  
WOULD BE SUSPENDED UNTIL EVIDENCE SHOWN TO BISHOPS. PRESIDENT  
SAID THAT CLOSED PUBLICATIONS ("SIGNS OF THE TIMES" AND "THE  
COMMUNICATOR") HAD IGNORED REPEATED GOVERNMENT WARNINGS AND  
THAT "SIGNS OF THE TIMES" HAD REFUSED TO REGISTER AS REQUIRED  
BY PRESIDENTIAL DECREE. IN REPLY NUNCIO EXPRESSED GRATITUDE  
FOR PRESIDENT'S EXPLANATION. HE ASKED PRESIDENT THAT GOVERN-  
MENT INFORM SUPERIORS BEFORE TAKING ACTION AGAINST CLERGY  
AND TRY TO AVOID "GOING TO THE EXTREME". OFFICIALS

PRESENT AT MEETING INCLUDED GENERAL RAMOS AND DEFENSE  
UNDERSECRETARY BARBERO.

2. MEMBER OF CHURCH MILITARY LIAISON COMMITTEE INFORMED  
EMBOFF THAT COMMITTEE WOULD DISCUSS SUSPENSION OF "SIGNS"  
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AND "COMMUNICATOR" IN MEETING ON DEC 16, BUT WAS UNLIKELY

TO DO MORE THAN ASK FOR EXPLANATION OF RECENT EVENTS.

3. COMMENT: MARCOS' WELL-PUBLICIZED REMARKS TO CHURCH-MEN CLEARLY INTENDED TO SOOTHE DOWN CURRENTLY RUFFLED CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS AND TO UNDERLINE FACT THAT GOP HAS NO QUARREL WITH MAJORITY OF CLERGY WHO ARE MIDDLE-OF-ROAD TO CONSERVATIVE. HOWEVER, IT UNLIKELY THAT WE HAVE SEEN THE END OF CURRENT GOVERNMENT DRIVE AGAINST ACTIVIST CHURCH MINORITY. END COMMENT.

4. STATUS OF VARIOUS DEPORTATION/VISA SUSPENSION CASES IS AS FOLLOWS:

A) FATHER REUTER/SISTER FARLEY (REF A). ACCORDING JESUIT PROVINCIAL SECRETARY BOGART, SECDEF ENRILE ASSURED CHURCH LEADERS (INCLUDING BISHOPS AND AMRSP REPS) AT DEC 9 MEETING THAT GOP HAD ACHIEVED WHAT IT WANTED WITH SUSPENSION OF "SIGNS" AND "COMMUNICATOR" AND THAT NO MORE DEPORTATIONS CONTEMPLATED AT THIS TIME.

B) FATHER CALVIN POULIN, SJ. ACCORDING BOGART, VISA RENEWAL APPLICATION OF THIS AMERICAN PRIEST RESIDENT IN BUKIDNON (MINDANAO) HAS BEEN DISAPPROVED AT LOWER LEVEL. CASE WILL BE REVIEWED BY REYES.

C) SISTER JEAN O' BRIEN (REF C) LEFT PHILIPPINES ON SUNDAY, DEC 5 (ONE DAY AFTER HER VISA EXPIRED) AND IS NOW IN HONG KONG. AS NOTED REFTEL, MARYKNOLL HAS APPLIED FOR RECONSIDERATION OF CASE WHICH APPARENTLY HINGES ON FACT THAT SHE SIGNED LETTER IN SUPPORT OF DISSIDENT FATHER DE LA TORRE IN DEC 1974, AS DID MANY OF HER COLLEAGUES.

D) DENIS MURPHY (REF D). EMBOFF TALKED WITH HIM DEC 9; NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS.  
SULLIVAN

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## Message Attributes

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